

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 BIB-01 /074 W
-----088526 131508Z /43

R 131020Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1452
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7544

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, PROP, VM, CB, US
SUBJ: SRV DEPUTY FONMIN COMMENTS ON VIET-NAM-CAMBODIAN CONFLICT

1. DURING AN INTERVIEW MARCH 11 WITH UPI CORRESPONDENT ALAN DAWSON, SRV DEPUTY FONMIN HOANG BICH SON COMMENTED THAT VIETNAMESE TROOPS COULD "TAKE THE TOWN (PHNOM PENH) IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS IF WE WANTED TO" BUT ADDED THAT HANOI WOULD CONTINUE TO BEHAVE PATIENTLY TOWARD CAMBODIA. SON NOTED TO DAWSON, HOWEVER, THAT VIETNAMESE PATIENCE WAS NOT RPT NOT UNENDING.

2. DAWSON WAS SUDDENLY GRANTED THE INTERVIEW SATURDAY MORNING, THIRTY MINUTES BEFORE IT TOOK PLACE. DAWSON TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT DURING MUCH OF THE NINETY MINUTE BACKGROUNDER SON SEEMED TO BE INTERVIEWING DAWSON, PROBABLY, DAWSON THINKS, IN CONNECTION WITH HIS VISA APPLICATION TO THE SRV. DAWSON IS OPTIMISTIC THAT HIS REQUEST WILL BE GRANTED FOR AN APRIL VISIT. DAWSON SAID THAT
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HE DID NOT PLAN TO CITE THE DEPUTY FONMIN DIRECTLY IN HIS REPORTING AND ANTICIPATES OUR MAINTAINING CONFIDENTIALITY.

3. COMMENT: FROM THIS EXCHANGE, WE ASSUME THAT HANOI'S PATIENCE STILL CAN BE TAXED AT LEAST A BIT MORE. THE PROPAGANDA COM-PETITION WITH CAMBODIA APPARENTLY WILL CONTINUE INTO NEXT MONTH. IN TERMS OF U.S.-SRV RELATIONS AND POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL

IMPACT OF MEDIA REPORTS, IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THE VIETNAMESE MAY
BE PREPARED TO GRANT INCREASED ACCESS TO AMERICAN MEDIA
REPRESENTATIVES.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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